California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Proposed Design Elements for the Round 2 Marine Protected Area Planning Process

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A set of process design elements have been developed for Round 2 of the marine protected area (MPA) planning process in the MLPA North Coast Study Region; these design elements build upon lessons learned in previous Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) study regions, the unique characteristics of the north coast study region, and the professional experience of the facilitation team for the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG).

Proposed Elements of Round 2 Process Design

Five elements are proposed for Round 2:

- 1. Use of Work Groups. MLPA Initiative staff will organize the NCRSG into two cross-interest work groups; "precious gems" is likely to be the continuing theme.
- 2. Number of Round 2 Proposals. The Round 2 charge for each work group is to produce a single "draft MPA proposal" that has broad-based support within the work group. In past study regions, Round 2 has been a critical opportunity to develop cross-interest ideas. Additionally, this is responsive to the desire expressed by many NCRSG members to produce a single MPA proposal that can garner cross-interest support; the Round 2 work will help ensure progress toward that goal.
 - If, at the end of Round 2, a work group finds that it is unable to come to agreement on a single proposal, it could develop two proposals with the objective of minimizing the differences between them.
- 3. Approach to Round 1 External MPA Arrays. The Round 2 work groups will be asked to build on the ideas contained within and the evaluation results from all of the Round 1 external MPA arrays. Note that there is no requirement that the work groups use a Round 1 external MPA array as a platform for developing a draft MPA proposal.
- 4. Staff Support and NCRSG Communications: MLPA Initiative staff will support the work groups as in past study regions. Staff will create work group list servers to facilitate communication and will also set up group accounts in MarineMap to allow NCRSG members to share ideas.
- 5. Round 3 Process Design: MLPA Initiative staff will develop Round 3 guidance based on the outcomes of Round 2, and the interest of the NCRSG in working toward a single Round 3 NCRSG proposal.